

REMARKS

I. Introduction

Claim 1 is pending in the present application and is amended herein as set forth above. Reconsideration of the application is respectfully requested for the following reasons.

II. Rejection of Claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b)

Claim 1 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 384,514 ("Dowson"), Patent No. 693,133 ("Hennebohle") and Patent No. 2,356,360 ("Smolensky"). It is respectfully submitted that Dowson, Hennebohle, and Smolensky, do not anticipate claim 1, as amended herein, for at least the following reasons.

Claim 1 is amended herein to include, at least in part, "the length of the valve stem is about equal to the distance between the valve inlet and the valve outlet in the valve casing; and the outlet-side of the valve stem projects out of the valve casing when said check valve is in the fully open position" Applicants respectfully submit that the amendment to claim 1 does not constitute new matter and is supported by the specification at Page 3, Lines 24-27 which states "[t]he valve element 6 is integrally provided with a valve stem 7 projecting from the inlet 2 side of the valve element and an outlet-side of valve stem 8 projecting from the outlet 4 side of the valve element." Furthermore, the amended language is supported by Figures 1 and 2, wherein the "the length of the valve stem is about equal to the distance between the valve inlet and the valve outlet in the valve casing; and the outlet-side of the valve stem projects out of the valve casing when said check valve is in the fully open position." Neither Dowson, Hennebohle, nor Smolensky disclose the amended claim limitations and therefore, those references cannot anticipate claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b).

Specifically, neither Dowson, Hennebohle, nor Smolensky disclose "the length of the valve stem is about equal to the distance between the valve inlet and the valve outlet in the valve casing; and the outlet-side of the valve stem projects out of the valve casing when said check valve is in the fully open position."

The valve stem according to Dowson is not about equal to the distance of the inlet and outlet flanges of the valve as shown in Figures 1 and 3 and the specification of Dowson makes no reference to that claim element. Furthermore, Dowson does not disclose that the valve stem projects out of the valve casing in the fully open position and the specification makes no reference to that claim element either.

The check and stop valve disclosed in Hennebohle is an angled valve. See, Figures 1 and 2; *see also*, Column 2, Lines 55-59. Accordingly, Hennebohle does not disclose a valve stem "about equal to the distance between said valve inlet and said valve outlet in said valve casing." Hennebohle also teaches away from Applicants' invention in that Hennebohle discloses that the valve stem remains within the valve casing during operation and especially when the valve is fully open. "To open the valve, the screw I is raised full open until its head M is solid against its seat, as shown in full lines in Figure 1." Col. 3, Lines 17-20.

The valve disclosed in Figure 2 of Smolensky, the only illustration of the invention, discloses a valve with a valve stem that is notably shorter than the distance between the inlet side and the outlet side of the valve casing and the valve stem is contained within the valve's casing or body member. Indeed, Smolensky states "[t]he valve guide member 25 is closed at its lower end by an end wall 28, preferably having a spring centering annular enlargement 29 on its inner face and also having a drainage aperture 31 centrally of the end wall." Column 3, lines 30-34. Accordingly, Smolensky also teaches away from Applicants' invention.

As indicated above, Dowson, Hennebohle, and Smolensky do not disclose, or even suggest, all of the features of amended claim 1. As such, it is respectfully submitted that Dowson, Hennebohle, and Smolensky do not anticipate claim 1.

IV. CONCLUSION

For the preceding reasons, it is respectfully submitted that claim 1, as amended herein, is now in condition for allowance.

Respectfully submitted,

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